

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



October 26, 2015

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at Events Related to the Teaching and Mentoring Conference, October 29 – November 1, 2015

On October 29 – November 1, 2015, Southern Regional Education Board, a nonprofit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, will host the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring Conference. This event will take place over four days at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington, Virginia. The Conference will start with an orientation at 5:30 p.m. followed by an opening reception at 7:00 p.m. on October 29 and end Sunday after brunch at 11:30 a.m. on November 1.

The purpose of this event is to bring scholars, industry and higher education leaders, educators and students together to provide information and skill development to assist the attendees in their professional development. Approximately 1,000 people are expected to attend this event. Attendees will include representatives from academia; organizations focused on education; industry, students, other government agencies, philanthropic organizations and commissions on higher education. The food and beverages at the event are estimated to be \$240 per person; \$35 for the reception on October 29, \$25 for the breakfast, and \$35 for the lunch, and \$45 for the banquet on October 30, \$25 for the breakfast, and \$35 for the lunch on October 31, \$10 for the coffee/juice, and \$30 for the brunch on November 1.

I find that the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring Conference meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the events to which an invitation has been extended because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA attendees to exchange information on NASA's education programs with interested representatives of significant communities.

Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the sponsors, including NASA employees in a non-career position who are required to sign the ethics pledge under Executive Order 13490, may accept an invitation for themselves and an invited guest for free attendance to the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and

Mentoring Conference events. In addition, the Administrator, Deputy Administrator and any NASA employee may accept free attendance at the events at which they are speaking.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event host, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. F. Greenstone', written in a cursive style.

Adam F. Greenstone